Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 04 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 05 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 04 Mar 2023 at 02:54

Confidence: High confidence for a change to cold conditions early next week, lower confidence in cloud amounts and risk of showers on Saturday and Sunday.

Headline for Saturday 04 Mar 2023: Dry and bright with light winds in the morning, cloudier afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 04 Mar 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%

Forecast for Saturday 04 Mar 2023

Weather: After a bright start on Saturday morning with some bright or sunny spells, especially around western fells, cloud will thicken and it will be a rather dull day. Remaining mostly dry, although a light shower is not out of the question. Remaining cloudy in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 90% summits will be mostly clear of cloud.

Low cloud and visibility: Cloud bases will be above the fell tops for most of the day, a few patches may form at times in the afternoon above 700m. Visibility will be very good in the morning but it will seem a little hazier in the afternoon as cloud thickens.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Forecast for Saturday 04 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	11/13 N	7/9 N	7/10 N	5/7 N	6/8 N	4/6 NW	4/6 SW
600	9/12 N	7/10 N	5/7 N	5/8 N	6/9 NW	4/6 W	6/9 W
300	5/11 N	4/9 N	2/6 N	6/9 N	4/8 NW	3/5 W	3/6 W
Valley	4/11 N	2/6 N	2/5 NW	4/7 W	6/9 NW	3/4 NW	2/5 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-8	-3/-7	-1/-5	0/-2	-1/-4	-1/-4	-2/-4
600	-1/-5	-1/-4	1/-1	2/0	1/-2	0/-2	0/-3
300	0/-2	2/0	4/3	5/3	3/2	2/1	2/1
Valley	3/1	4/3	6/6	7/5	6/4	5/4	5/4
Freezing Level*	300m	400m	600m	700m	700m	600m	600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling chilly on the fells despite mainly light winds.

Forecast for Sunday 05 Mar 2023

Weather: A few light wintery showers are possible during the night but cloud tending to lift and thin during the morning. Further cloud spreading south in the afternoon and becoming quite dull later.

Maximum wind: North-westerly 5-10mph.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70%, scattered low cloud forming around the fell tops.

Low cloud and visibility: Scattered cloud above 600m will form at times with cloud thickening and lowering later in the day. Despite a bright start, visibility will become hazy and perhaps fall moderate in any light showers, seeming quite dull during the afternoon.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 3 rising to 6 Celsius.
At 800m: Minus 1 rising to plus 2 Celsius.
Freezing level: 800m rising to 1000m

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date Friday 3 March Location Helvellyn summit at 12:15 Temperature: minus 2.1c Maximum wind speed 14.5mph Wind chill: minus 8.5c Average wind speed: 10.9mph With a slight drop in temperature, the recent thaw of the remaining snow has ceased. That stated, the majority of the Lakeland fells are free from snow as it is restricted to the highest ground. There was some rime ice from 750m, with most being above 850m and the vast majority above 900m. Similarly the rime was accompanied with some snow from 850m with most now above 900m where there is a thin covering of only one centimetre or so. Some windblown areas right up to summit level are clear of snow. However, the summit plateau itself was covered in a mix of rime ice, hard crunchy snow and some bare ground. Traction was actually fairly good but it does become more slippery where the snow/rime is compressed by walkers' boots and will get more treacherous if there is a thaw/freeze. Above 900m on steep north and east facing slopes there are patches of old, hard snow, which have been present for weeks, and are now situated under a thin layer of fresh snow and rime ice. Owing to their locations, though, they are not on any paths so walkers are unlikely to have to negotiate them. Exposed routes on the high fells require particular care and attention owing to the mixed underfoot conditions. For example Striding Edge's crest was mostly bare, dry rock whereas Swirral Edge's crest had far more rime ice and snow as did the exits to both edges; ie there were patches of good grip immediately followed with something far more slippery!

With the relatively stable conditions at the moment, there is a noticeable contrast between the valleys, with their signs of Spring, and the bleak, wintry feeling summit which, around midday gave a windchill reading (what the temperature actually feels like) of minus 9 degrees C quickly chilling those who had elected not to carry any extra clothing. This was a shame, not just for their safety, but also for their enjoyment as the summit today was a place to don extra clothes and linger to absorb the 360 degree views. Therefore full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Good navigational skills are always required, but are especially crucial when entering low cloud. Given the current conditions, for those heading above the snowline microspikes are strongly recommended.

Issued at: 02:54 on Sat 04 Mar 2023

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